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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 LAB-04 SIL-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 EUR-12 /051 W
---------- 016606
R 091952Z APR 76
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3566
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RIO DE JANEIRO 1406

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB BR
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FLIGHT ATTENDANT'S ASSOCIATION

REF: STATE 67924; 80718

FIRST WORLD CONGRESS OF FLIGHT STEWARDS AND STEWARDESSES SCHEDULED TO BE HELD RIO DE JANEIRO MAY 9-14, 1976. SPONSOR: VARIG AIRLINES FLIGHT STEWARDS AND STEWARDESSES ASSOCIATION. PURPOSE: (1) TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS IFFAA WITH HEADQUARTERS TO BE CHOSEN DURING CONGRESS; (2) TO EXCHANGE PERTINENT INFORMATION ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST SUCH AS IN-FLIGHT SERVICE, FLIGHT SAFETY, EMERGENCY PROCEDURES, AVIATION MEDICINE, ETC; (3) TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS SUCH AS STEWARDESS' PREGNANCY, RETIREMENT, AGE LIMIT, STANDARDIZATION OF WORKING HOURS, ETC; (4) TO BRING TOGETHER FLIGHT ATTENDANTS FROM ALL AIRLINES IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP. INVITED PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF FLIGHT ATTENDANT ASSOCIATIONS, OBSERVERS FROM AIRLINE COMPANIES, CHIEFLY CABIN SERVICE SUPERINTENDENTS AND INFLIGHT SERVICE MANAGERS WITH A MAXIMUM OF 4 PERSONS PER DELEGATION, AND REP-RESENTATIVES OF CATERING COMPANIES. AN EXPOSITION WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE CONGRESS FOR AIRLINE COMPANY SUPPLIERS.

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COMMENT - THE VARIG AIRLINES FLIGHT STEWARDS ASSOCIATION (ACVAR)

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IS ACCORDING TO ITS PRESIDENT ANTONIO DE SOUZA, A VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF EXCLUSIVELY VARIG AIRLINE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS. IT HAS 1200 DUES PAYING MEMBERS. DUES ARE FLAT ACROSS THE BOARD 2 PERCENT OF SALARY. MANY ACVAR MEMBERS ALSO BELONG TO THE SINDICATO NACIONAL DOS AEROUTICOS (NATIONAL UNION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS) WHICH HAS NATIONWIDE JURISDICTION AND APPROX 4,000 MEMBERS EMPLOYED BY ALL BRAZILIAN AIRLINES. ACVAR ACCORDING TO SOUZA, IS REALLY A UNION WITHIN A UNION. IT IS RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT TOURIST AGENCIES AND FROM VARIG AIRLINES IN ITS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE CONGRESS. IT HAS INVITED VARIOUS BRAZILIAN AIRLINE AND TRANS-PORTATION UNIONS TO PARTICIPATE BUT OF THIS DATE HAS RECEIVED NO SHOW OF INTEREST. ADVAR EMPHASIZES IT IS NON-POLITICAL AND HAS NO TIES OR CONNECTIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKER'S FEDERATION (ITF) WHICH IT CONSIDERS TO BE A LEFT-WING POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. IT ALSO CONSIDERS THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS TO BE LEFT-WING AND POLITICAL.

SOUZA CLAIMS FLIGHT ATTENDAOTS FROM 34 NATIONS HAVE WIRED ACCEPTANCES. THESE INCLUDE THE SOVIET UNION. SOUZA SHOWED THE LABOR ATTACHE A LIST OF FOUR USSR OFFICIALS WHOM HE SAYS WILL ATTEND.

ANTONIO DE SOUZA IS DYNAMIC AND AGGRESSIVE. EXUDES CHARM BUT GAVE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE A FEELING OF SLICK URBANITY. APPEARS EXTREMELY NAIVE IN POLITICAL JUDGEMENTS. GOING ALL OUT TO GET PAN AMERICAN PARTICIPATION. LONG TIME CONTACTS PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF AIRLINE MARITIME WORKERS (CNTMFA) TOLD LABOR ATTACHE THEY ARE OF OPINION THAT VARIG AIRLINES MAKING SIZEABLE CONTRIBUTION STAGING OF CONGRESS. LABOR ATTACHE GETS DISTINCT FEELING ACVAR UNDER CONSIDERABLE COMPANY INFLUENCE.
DEXTER

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